



*Emmanuel
Street from St
Andrew's
Street, 1938*

10449

c.44.6: Cambridge EMMANUEL STREET Scrapbook by Mike Petty

1900

1901 04 18

Cambridge Council reported that in 1900 a meeting had been held with Emmanuel College as to the terms of exchange of the site of Emmanuel Street for a piece of ground to form a new street from St Andrews Street to Drummer Street. The existing street was the chief means of access to the centre of the town and carried a very considerable proportion of traffic with 1,030 cyclists on Saturday. The new road would be nearly 100 feet shorter and wider. Mr Campkin suggested the advantage would rest largely with the College.

1903 10 10

Emmanuel St, p2

1906 02 22

In 1901 an agreement was made with Emmanuel College for the closing of Emmanuel Street and the opening of a new one nearer Christ's Lane. It had been needed when electric trams were being planned to remedy a dangerous corner with St Andrew's Street – but there would be a more dangerous corner to the proposed new street. Now some councillors called for the agreement to be cancelled. However the council had entered a binding contract and they were honour-bound to carry it out. 06 02 22a,b,c

1906 05 17

An agreement had been made between the Borough Council and Emmanuel College for the closure of Emmanuel Street and the creation of a new road further north. As a result the college had taken no steps to erect new buildings on the site of two dilapidated houses that had been pulled down and had lost ground rent for several years. Now the council had changed its mind. They should make compensation by providing, free of cost, a subway to link college property on either side of Emmanuel Street 06 05 17b & c

1910

1911 09 05

A number of Cambridge schoolboys 'came out' on strike, some because they had a half-holiday and others because they hadn't. Some say there were several hundred boys and girls carrying 'On Strike' banners and they had chalked the same on the doors of their schools. They held a mass meeting on Christ's Pieces then marched down Emmanuel Street where they came into contact with the police (one constable). The demonstration then collapsed. But teachers say there was no strike. They were not schoolboys but hooligans; they made a disturbance outside the school but the flashing eye of the schoolmaster made them retreat 11 09 15c

1920

1923 10 24

Sir - Permit me to enter a strong protest against Cambridge town council "improvements". Take the following, with all of which we are now threatened. The detestable proposal to improve St Mary's Street by lopping off nine feet of church yard; the very pleasant little old world Emmanuel Street to be made banal by altering its lines and proportions; Coe fen to be utterly ruined for ever by cutting a new road for motors. And who in their right mind would dream of building public baths in so outlying and unattractive a suburb as Gwydir Street. - Delta

1925 08 10

Sir – Much has been written about the street lighting of Cambridge. Emmanuel Road, Emmanuel Street and Drummer Street are all under repair and consequently all the main road traffic has to proceed via Clarendon Street or New Square. Yet in the whole length of these roads not a single lamp is lighted at nights. In fact in the whole district there is not one lamp. Isn't it time that something was done to instil a little sense into the heads of those who direct the town affairs? It is false economy to make the streets danger traps for motorists, cyclists & pedestrians. – F.I. Cowles

1925 11 09 c

Three undergraduates were fined £2 each for extinguishing street lamps. James Haynes, a watchman said he saw the gentlemen approach Drummer Street. They overturned the brazier containing his fire and he had to put the fire out because the tar on the pavement commenced to flare. He saw them turn out the light of a lamp in Emmanuel Street. Two of them hoisted another up to do this. In Short Street they turned out three more lights and another five were turned out along Victoria Avenue.

1930

1936 03 23

Unilateral parking came into force in Cambridge on Saturday. Between Regent Street and the Old Post Office parking is now allowed for 15 minutes in any one hour on one side of the road on even dates and on the other side on odd. There is one short stretch against Emmanuel Street in which no parking is allowed, owing to the difficulty of traffic coming in and out of the town through this narrow street. Readers should remember they cannot now leave their cars for any longer than 15 minutes as this is the limit. 36 03 23b

1940

1946 05 01

St Andrew's Street and Emmanuel Street road widening, discussion Council and Emmanuel College – 46 05 01

1949 07 16

Rapid progress has been made this week in the demolition of Coad's former shop at the junction of Emmanuel Street and St Andrew's street, Cambridge. The work, which forms part of the street widening scheme envisaged many years before the war, will involve the complete clearance of the

corner and the provision of a larger curve to assist buses and increase visibility. There is no immediate prospect of further developments in the scheme but it is possible that a seat might be provided on the newly-cleared space.

1950

1952 05 05

Cambridge city council would like to see Christ's Lane opened out as a thoroughfare to be used by the omnibuses and other traffic to alleviate congestion in the City centre and provide relief for Emmanuel Street. The present country bus station at Drummer Street would then become the main stopping place for the local buses which now pick up and set down passengers in Sidney Street constricting the traffic flow. They also propose a new road on the line of Post Office Terrace to Wheeler Street. With Corn Exchange Street widened this would provide for a good circulation of traffic in the city centre

1952 10 23

Proposals for the bus station at Drummer Street, Cambridge, were discussed at the Planning Inquiry. The bus company preferred a station to be sited on New Square which was double the area of Drummer Street. But would passengers agree – and they are entitled to be considered sometimes. Half to two-thirds would use Emmanuel Street. The amount of bus traffic would increase if greater provision was made & there would be a traffic blockage at Four Lamps roundabout

1954 07 19

The Minister's decision on the County Development Plan has been announced. The only major Cambridge items not approved are the site of the bus station between Christ's College & Emmanuel and the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Road. All the central area road proposals including the 'spine relief road', the new Guildhall Street and a cross-town route joining Emmanuel Street with Downing Street have been approved together with the new Chesterton Bridge over the Cam near Walnut Tree Avenue, a multi-storey car park in Corn Exchange Street and a subway at the railway station.

1954 07 20

Planners have approved a new development between St Andrew's Street and Emmanuel New Court, Cambridge. There will be shops on the ground floor and offices above and the building will be of a high architectural standard in keeping with its position in the centre of the city. Provision must be made for a widening of Emmanuel Street and be sited to allow for a free circulation of the shopping traffic generated. Car parking facilities are advocated, either by way of a basement or by access to a space on the roof.

1954 08 06

Emmanuel College has announced proposals for building a new block of shops and offices on the corner of St Andrew's Street. They will lease the property to the Prudential Assurance Company who will undertake what is by far the largest and most important commercial development since the opening of Woolworth's Stores in Sidney Street. The existing buildings will be completely taken down and a new block erected in their place with shops on the ground floor and offices above. With the parking problem so much in the forefront it will provide sufficient car parking for its occupants. Though they may be some who will regret the disappearance of the cottages in Emmanuel Street few will argue against the removal of the red brick 'giant' known as Rance's Folly with its towering storeys and overblown construction which is now used as University offices. CDN 6.8.1954

1954 10 19

Emmanuel Street plans, p4

1955 07 01

Emmanuel Street demolition photo, p12

1955 07 02

Miss Kathleen Payne, 76, is retiring after a lifetime in the newsagents' business as her shop in Emmanuel Street is to be pulled down. It marks the end of one of Cambridge's familiar landmarks. The business was started by her father who remembered selling his first C.D.N. in 1888. Miss Payne has lived there all her life & recalls when chickens used to run down St Andrew's Street before the days of super shops, large cinemas and motor buses. 55 07 02

1956 07 14

Mr Stanley Woolston has removed his antiques business to Pembroke Street. It is a wrench to leave his former premises in St Andrew's Street after 30 years where he has been honoured by the gracious patronage of members of the Royal Family. But the buildings have been affected by the redevelopment of Emmanuel Street and plans to link Drummer Street with a shopping arcade. He will retain his warehouse at the end of Bradwell's Yard until the area is ripe for rebuilding. 56 07 14

1959 06 18

The giant new Prudential Building on the junction of St Andrew's Street and Emmanuel Street incorporates the latest building techniques with heating and hot water provided by electrical units which take power from the mains during 'off-peak' hours and store it for use during the day. Acoustic ceiling tiles provide quieter working conditions, floors are of a coloured plastic tile and decorations in pastel shades. The basement contains a large garage and special storage to cater for the large use of bicycles by staff. 58 06 18

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1970

1975 02 10

Cambridge's city centre traffic experiment swung into action today. Thousands of motorists faced the through-traffic ban for the first time. The road closures and a system of one-way routes will operate for six months unless "utter chaos" develops. The scheme could then be swiftly abandoned. It closes two sections of road in the centre of town to private cars. One extends along King's Parade from King's College gate to Gt St Mary's while the other runs from Woolworth's along St Andrew's street to its junction with Emmanuel St

1977 07 13

A group of Cambridge residents have started a legal battle to stop buses using the narrow, congested Parker Street to reach the city's Drummer Street bus station. They are trying to force four major bus companies to use an alternative route via Emmanuel Street and Regent Street. The leader of the objectors said: "Parker Street is fit only for local traffic, being narrow and with houses on each side. At the moment the pollution is disgusting. You cannot open a window and the noise is above acceptable limits". The Eastern Counties traffic manager said: "Buses represent only a tiny proportion of the heavy traffic using the street, so why we are being picked on I don't know"

1980

1980 12 04

The age of the microchip has taken all of us by surprise but now sons and daughters crave for the latest computer game, digital watch or radio-controlled car. Since Tandy came to Cambridge five years ago they have found rapidly-increasing demand in the home electronics field and have now divided their Emmanuel Street operation into two shops. One will house a veritable treasure trove of hi-fis, tv games and intercoms appealing to the young. 80 12 04b

1981 02 09

The new King 511 call box installed in Emmanuel Street, Cambridge is made of transparent bronze acrylic attached to a strong central column. There is no door so that users simply walk into the open canopy. British Telecom says it will curb vandalism and is more attractive in a modern environment.
81 02 09a

1989 12 15

The closure of W & G. Taylor is the latest in a line of small stores squeezed from the city centre by rocketing rents. Two other men's outfitters, Ropers and Bodgers closed this summer. Another famous shop which closed six years ago in the face of mounting rent and rates was Bacons in Market Street. The Parsley Pot in Lion Yard, Cambridge Fine Jewels of Emmanuel Street and upmarket furnishers, Johns left their Bridge Street premises for Histon Road last year blaming the traffic chaos and high parking charges 89 12 15